

Information Bulletin



Agriculture Street Landfill Voluntary Soil Removal Project March 15, 1999

UPDATE

Work has started on the lower portion of the undeveloped property located near St. Ferdinand, Press Street, and Industry Street. Louisa Street and Industry Street are currently being used by trucks to haul debris from this property.

On February 25, 1999, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to the city of New Orleans, according to Superfund regulations (CERCLA Section 104(e)(5), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(5)), to obtain access to street extensions and other property owned by the city within the boundaries of undeveloped property, Operable Unit No. 1, of the Agriculture Street Landfill Superfund site. This Order was issued to minimize truck traffic carrying debris from the undeveloped property through residential streets and ensure safety measures for the children. In addition, without access to the property owned by the city, EPA will not be able to fully remediate the undeveloped property.

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) recently signed access agreements that allow EPA to implement the Voluntary Soil Removal Action at the Shirley Jefferson Community Center and the Press Park Town homes owned by HANO. However, no work will start on these properties until the United States District Court makes a determination on the Temporary Restraining Order that was granted to the city of New Orleans on March 8, 1999. Once a determination has been made, the community will be informed.

The EPA will continue to maintain the highest levels of health and safety standards that protect the residents and workers in the neighborhood.

EPA's RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER ISSUED TO THE CITY

Why is EPA ordering the city to grant access while asking citizens to voluntarily grant access?

EPA's Response:

EPA has stated that residential property responses will only be conducted on a voluntary basis. However, it was never EPA's intention to extend that commitment to non-residential property such as the undeveloped property. Because the city is the owner of portions of the undeveloped property and has not granted access, EPA issued the order requiring access.

Why is EPA not ordering the city to perform the cleanup?

EPA's Response:

EPA attempted to negotiate with the city for the cleanup in 1995 and 1996. The City of New Orleans has stated it does not have the financial ability to fund this action. Thus, EPA is implementing a non-time-critical action, to address the contamination at the site.

If EPA does not have access for the single family dwellings, what will you do?

EPA's Response:

To date EPA has received access agreements for some of the single family dwellings. EPA and the Corps of Engineers will continue efforts to

obtain access agreements from the residents. However, once the Voluntary Soil Removal Action nears completion, and residents still choose not to participate, their property will remain in its current condition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you have any questions, please call EPA's toll-free number, 1-800-533-3508, or one of the following EPA representatives.

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Office Hours:

Monday: Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
and by appointment

The Administrative Record has recently been updated with additional documents and is maintained in EPA's Community Outreach Office.



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